(*d*) whether there are now 21 elected councillors for the 10 wards; and

(*e*) whether instead of having 10 big wards the Government will be pleased to direct once again that Bezwada municipality be divided into 21 wards immediately as per Government Order in 1924 and to have elections accordingly?

A.—(*a*) In 1923 in consequence of an increase in the number of elective seats on the Municipal Council from 18 to 21, the Government requested the Chairman to arrange for a division of the town into 21 wards. The Chairman promised to take steps accordingly, but when the matter came before the Council, the latter considered that the division of the town into 21 wards was unnecessary, and asked for a reconsideration of the order. A counter-representation from certain municipal councillors urging the division of the municipality into 21 wards was received in 1924. On reconsideration the Government finally decided that the number of wards should remain at ten as more convenient topographically and from an electoral point of view as division into 21 wards would reduce the number of voters in each ward to an undesirable extent.

(*b*) Only in two wards the number of voters is below 60.

(*c*) Six councillors were elected in September 1928 in six wards but in only one of these wards was the number of voters below 60. A number of voters have been temporarily disfranchised in the current year by the non-payment of taxes. In 1927–28 there was no ward containing less than 160 voters.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The power to divide municipalities into wards has been delegated to Collectors.

Alleged refusal of the Bezwada Municipal Chairman to read the welcome address to His Excellency the Governor.

* 723-B *Q.*—The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Bezwada Municipal Council passed a unanimous resolution for giving a welcome address to His Excellency the Governor when he visited Bezwada on 5th December 1927 in connexion with the first Convocation of the Andhra University;

(*b*) whether the address was read by the Chairman of the Council, if not, why not;

(*c*) whether he had refused to read the address at the previous visit of His Excellency also; and

(*d*) what steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The address was not read by the Chairman as he was absent at Masulipatam in connexion with the inquiry into petitions filed against him in connexion with his election to the Legislative Council.

(*c*) No. It was arranged that the Vice-Chairman should read the address.

(*d*) The Government do not consider that any action is called for.